

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SS-15 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

NSC-10 IGA-02 RSR-01 /145 W
----- 078920

O P 280305Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9189

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, VS

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I RICE DIVERSION-KOREA TO VIET-NAM

REF: A) SAIGON 13587; B) NEGOTIATING MINUTES; C) SEOUL 4834

CONTACTED EPB, OSROK AND GVN EMBASSY RE QUESTIONS RAISED
REF A) AND ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

1. OSROK HAS NOT REPEAT NOT DEMANDED ADDITIONAL COSTS
OVER AGREEMENT REACHED REF B).

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OSROK AND GVN REP
DURING PAST WEEK, OSROK STATED THAT SINCE THEY HAD NOT
CHARTERED VESSELS TO CARRY RICE THEY WOULD NORMALLY
INSPECT VESSELS UPON ARRIVAL IN KOREA FOR, INTER ALIA,
CLEANLINESS, VENTILATION, WOODEN PALLETS, ETC. IF
CONDITIONS OF VESSELS CONSIDERED BY OSROK AS INADEQUATE
TO ENSURE PROPER TRANSPORTATION RICE. OSROK WOULD
NORMALLY PROCEED WITH VESSEL PREPARATION. GVN EMBASSY
REP REQUESTED INFORMATION AS TO EVENTUAL COSTS OF SUCH
VESSEL PREPARATION AND WAS ADVISED THAT, IF NECESSARY,
COSTS WOULD BE ABOUT \$2.00 MT AND OSROK GIVE HANDWRITTEN
NOTE TO GVN EMBASSY REP AT LATTER'S REQUEST. HOWEVER,
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THIS WAS ONLY FOR INFORMATION PURPOSE AND WAS NOT TO

HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AS BILL OR DEMAND FOR PAYMENT. INFORMATION PROVIDED TO GVN REP WAS DONE ON FORMAT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL POSSIBLE COSTS FOR ANY CARGO AND HENCE MENTION OF ELEVATOR SPOUT AND TRIM EVEN THOUGH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AWARE THAT RICE BAGGED AND SPOUT NOT NECESSARY.

3. OSROK FURTHER INFORMED GVN OFFICIAL THAT VESSEL PREPARATION, IF NECESSARY, SHOULD BE FOR ACCOUNT SHIP OWNER AND NOT REPEAT NOT GVN. OSROK STATED THAT SINCE CHARTER OBTAINED BY GVN SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THAT OFFERED EARLIER BY OSROK IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH VESSEL PREPARATION CHARGES NOT INCLUDED IN CHARTER COST. IF SUCH PREPARATION DEEMED NECESSARY BY OSROK BUT NOT PERFORMED THEN POSSIBILITY ARISES THAT RICE MAY ARRIVE IN VIET-NAM IN POOR CONDITION. IN SUCH CASE OSROK WOULD CONSIDER THAT ANY LOSSES THEREBY INCURRED WOULD BE FOR ACCOUNT SHIP OWNER.

4. DURING DISCUSSIONS JULY 28 BETWEEN OSROK, EPB, GVN REP AND USAID, OSROK AND GVN AGREED THAT OSROK WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT INSPECT VESSELS PRIOR TO LOADING RICE. SUCH INSPECTION WILL BE PERFORMED BY GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCE CO. (GESCO) UNDER GVN EMB ARRANGEMENTS AND OSROK WILL ARRANGE LOADING AS AGREED REF B).

5. COMMENT: BELIEVE ENTIRE PROBLEM ABOVE IS CASE MISUNDERSTANDING ARISING FROM KOREAN AND VIETNAMESE DISCUSSING COMPLEX MATTERS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, NATIVE TO NEITHER. BELIEVE THAT ALL MATTERS ARE NOW CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AND WE HAVE REQUESTED THAT OSROK, EPB AND GVN EMBASSY MAINTAIN CONTINUING CONTACT WITH USAID IN ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS DIVERSION TO AVOID SUCH MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN FUTURE. DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE NECESSARY THAT SAIGON PERSONNEL, EITHER GVN OR USAID, NEED VISIT SEOUL IN CONNECTION WITH FOREGOING.
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